

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9235

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 4557

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SUBJECT: POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION

1. WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY ON THE ELECTION ON JUNE 19 OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC. SUMMARIZED BELOW ARE THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION COVERING THE PRESIDENT.

2. UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION THE PRESIDENT IS ELECTED TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM. HE CAN ONLY BE REELECTED ONCE. THE PRESIDENT HAS THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR AND TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS OF PEACE, ALLIANCE, AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR UNION. HE APPOINTS THE PRIME MINISTER AND, ON THE LATTER'S ADVICE, APPOINTS AND DISMISSES THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE PRESIDENT CAN DISMISS THE GOVERNMENT AND DISSOLVE THE PARLIAMENT, ACTING IN BOTH CASES WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC. (THIS COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE PRINCIPAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND FORMER PRIME MINISTERS

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WHO WERE ELECTED BY OR ENJOYED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PARLIAMENT.)

4. THE PRESIDENT CAN RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR RE-
CONSIDERATION LEGISLATION ALREADY ADOPTED. HE CAN CALL
FOR A PLEBISCITE ON CRUCIAL NATIONAL ISSUES AND IN
EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES HE CAN ISSUE LEGISLATIVE
DECREES SUBJECT TO THE PARLIAMENT'S CONCURRENCE WITHIN
FORTY DAYS.

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